

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of preventing ear abrasion resulting from wearing an oxygen mask, said method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:  
  - (a) providing an oxygen mask that further comprises an adaptor for receiving oxygen supply tubing, and
  - (b) securing the oxygen mask over a respiratory outlet using a strap that:
    - (i) ~~(a)~~ engages the crown of a head with a crown member that is spaced above both ears of the head, and
    - (ii) ~~(b)~~ attaches to the oxygen mask via ~~two side straps~~ a single side strap on each side, that each extend along one side of the head between a junction on the crown member and an attachment point on the oxygen mask, along a path that is spaced in front of the ear on that one side of the head.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the crown member comprises an upper crown strap and a lower crown strap.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the strap comprises a resilient material.
4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the strap comprises a resilient material.
5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the resilient material is an elastic material.
6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the resilient material is an elastic material.
7. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the strap additionally comprises a transverse element that is connected at one end to the upper crown strap and connected at the other end to the lower crown strap.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the transverse ~~crown~~ strap element comprises a resilient material.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the resilient material is an elastic material.

10. (currently amended) A method of preventing ear abrasion in a person who wears an oxygen mask over a respiratory outlet, said method comprising:
  - (a) providing an oxygen mask that further comprises an adaptor for receiving oxygen supply tubing,
  - (b) providing a strap that comprises:
    - (i) a crown member that engages the crown of the head of the person at a selected distance above both ears of the person, and
    - (ii) ~~a pair of side straps,~~ single side strap on each side, each side strap having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the crown member at a junction,
  - (b) connecting the second end of each side strap to one each of two attachment points on the oxygen mask, and
  - (c) using the strap to secure the oxygen mask over the respiratory outlet, thereby causing each side strap to extend between the junction and the attachment point along a path that is spaced in front of each ear.
11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the crown member comprises an upper crown strap and a lower crown strap.
12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the strap comprises a resilient material.
13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the strap comprises a resilient material.
14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the resilient material is an elastic material.
15. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the resilient material is an elastic material.
16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the strap additionally comprises a transverse crown strap that is connected at one end to the upper crown strap and connected at the other end to the lower crown strap.
17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the transverse crown strap comprises a resilient material.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the transverse crown strap is an elastic material.
19. (currently amended) An oxygen mask and strap for use on a person, comprising:
  - (a) an oxygen mask having an attachment point on either side of the mask, and further comprising an adaptor for receiving oxygen supply tubing, and
  - (b) a strap having:
    - (i) a crown member engageable on the crown of the head of the person at a selected distance above both ears of the person, and
    - (ii) ~~two side straps~~ a single side strap on each side, each side strap having a first end and a second end, each first end being attached to said crown member at opposed junctions, joined together by connecting each attachment point to the second end of one of the side straps, and characterized in that each side strap is spaced in front of an ear of the person when the mask and strap are in use.
20. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 19 wherein the crown member comprises an upper crown strap and a lower crown strap.
21. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 19 wherein the strap comprises a resilient material.
22. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 20 wherein the strap comprises a resilient material.
23. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 19 wherein strap is made of an elastic material.
24. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 20 wherein the strap made of an elastic material.
25. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 20 wherein the strap additionally comprises a transverse element that is connected at one end to the upper crown strap and connected at the other end to the lower crown strap.
26. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 25 wherein the transverse element comprises a resilient material.

27. (original) The oxygen mask and strap of claim 25 wherein the transverse element is an elastic material.
28. (currently amended) An oxygen mask and strap for use on a person comprising:
- (a) an oxygen mask having an attachment point on either side of the mask, and further comprising an adaptor for receiving oxygen supply tubing, and
  - (b) a strap with:
    - (i) a crown member comprising an upper crown strap, a lower crown strap and two opposed junctions;
    - (ii) a single side strap extending from each said junction
  - (c) joined together by connecting each attachment point to the second end of one of the side straps, and characterized in that the crown member engages the crown above the ear, and each side strap is spaced in front of an ear of the person, when the mask and strap are in use.
29. (original) The oxygen mask of claim 28 wherein a transverse crown strap extends between the upper crown strap and the lower crown strap.
30. (original) The oxygen mask of claim 28 wherein the upper crown strap, the lower crown strap and the side straps comprise an elastic material.
31. (original) The oxygen mask of claim 29 wherein the upper crown strap, the lower crown strap, the side straps and the transverse crown strap comprise an elastic material.